

REMARKS

In the Office Action, the specification was objected to for certain informalities; claims 1, 4, and 5 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Application Pub. No. 2002/0111730 to Thorum et al. ("Thorum") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,577,025 to Hentschel et al. ("Hentschel"); and claims 2 and 3 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Thorum in view of Hentschel and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,729,436 to Yoshigi et al. ("Yoshigi").

Applicants have amended the specification and amended claims 1, and 2. Claims 1-5 are pending in the above-captioned patent application.

At the outset Applicants have amended claim 1 to recite "a base member including wire housing grooves extending in three dimensions." Support for these changes to claim 1 may be found in the specification, for example at page 7, lines 1-3.

Applicants respectfully traverse the Examiner's rejection of claims 1, 4, and 5 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Thorum in view of Hentschel, and the rejection of 2 and 3 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Thorum in view of Hentschel and Yoshigi.

Amended claim 1, for example is not obvious over Thorum, Hentschel and Yoshigi because each fails to teach or suggest each and every element of the claim. In particular, Thorum, Hentschel and Yoshigi at least fail to teach or suggest the claimed "base member including wire housing grooves extending in three dimensions," as recited in amended claim 1.

Applicants note that claim 1 has been amended to recite "a base member including wire housing grooves," which was previously included in originally filed claim

2. Claim 1 has been further amended to recite that the base member includes “wire housing grooves *extending in three dimensions*” (emphasis added).

In rejecting claim 2, the Examiner acknowledges that Thorum “fails to disclose the grooves for housing the cables.” Office Action at page 3. Hentschel also fails to disclose grooves for housing cables. Indeed the Office Action does not rely on Hentschel for such teaching. The Examiner contends that Hentschel teaches “flexible wire to be flexible cable” Office Action at page 3.

Thus, the Examiner would apparently agree that neither Thorum nor Hentschel teaches the claimed “base member including wire housing grooves.” Nevertheless, the Examiner asserts that “Yoshigi discloses an electrical connection housing having a base member (21) and a cover (22) wherein the cover and the housing include grooves (25) for accommodating the electrical wire” Office Action at 3-4.¹ The Examiner then concludes that Yoshigi teaches the claimed base member. *Id.* As shown in Fig. 1 of Yoshigi, however, base plate (21) appears to be flat, and thus, as depicted in Fig. 2, guide grooves (25) appear to be co-planar such that they extend in only *two dimensions*. Accordingly, Yoshigi fails to teach the claimed “base member including wire housing grooves extending in *three dimensions*” (emphasis added), as recited in amended claim 1.

As noted above, Thorum and Hentschel fail to teach or suggest a “base member,” and therefore, like Yoshigi, also fail to teach the claimed “base member including wire housing grooves extending in three dimensions.” Claim 1 is thus

¹ Although the Office Action indicates that Hentschel discloses a housing including grooves, we believe the Examiner intended to refer to Yoshigi instead.

allowable over Thorum, Hentschel and Yoshigi, and claims 2-5 are allowable at least due to their dependence from claim 1.

In view of the foregoing remarks, Applicants submit that the claimed invention is not rendered obvious in view of the prior art references cited against this application. Applicants therefore request withdrawal of the rejections and timely allowance of all pending claims.

The Office Action contains characterizations of the claims and the related art with which Applicants do not necessarily agree. Unless expressly noted otherwise, Applicants decline to subscribe to any statement or characterization in the Office Action.

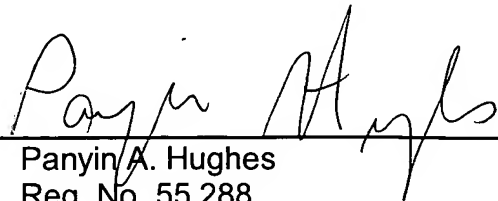
In discussing the specification, claims, and drawings in this Amendment, it is to be understood that Applicants are in no way intending to limit the scope of the claims to any exemplary embodiments described in the specification or abstract and/or shown in the drawings. Rather, Applicants are entitled to have the claims interpreted broadly, to the maximum extent permitted by statute, regulation, and applicable case law.

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this Amendment and charge any additional required fees to our Deposit Account No. 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

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